



Department of Justice

Acting United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown
Eastern District of California

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FRESNO MOTHER AND DAUGHTER INDICTED FOR TAX FRAUD

Mother Charged with Identity Theft in Separate Indictment

FRESNO, Calif.—Acting United States Attorney Lawrence G. Brown announced today that a federal grand jury returned a 15-count indictment against JUANITA MUNOZ, 45, and her daughter MONIQUE ANAYA, 23, both of Fresno, with one count of conspiracy to defraud the United States with respect to claims and MUNOZ with 14 counts of making false claims against the United States. A separate two-count indictment charged MUNOZ with identity theft and aggravated identity theft.

These cases are the product of investigations by the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division and the United States Secret Service.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Mark E. Cullers, who is prosecuting the cases, MUNOZ and ANAYA conspired to defraud the United States by preparing and causing to be prepared tax returns that contained false information as to the taxpayer's name, social security number, and employment. As a result, the false tax returns requested tax refunds which were then sent to bank accounts under the control of the defendants. MUNOZ is also charged with 14 separate counts of making false claims to the United States in the form of individual Form 1040 income tax returns.

The second indictment charging MUNOZ with the theft of the identity of another person and obtaining goods valued at over \$1,000 in a one-year period.

If convicted of these charges, the defendants face a maximum statutory penalty of five years in prison and/or a fine up to \$250,000 per count. The actual sentence, however, will be determined at the discretion of the court after consideration of the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, which take into account a number of variables and any applicable statutory sentencing factors.

The charges are only an allegations, and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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